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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/647,472

08/26/2003

Lawrence M. Burns

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26111 7590 03/14/2007
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

HOLLINGTON, JERMELE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2829

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/14/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,472	BURNS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jermele M. Hollington	2829	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,5,11,12,14 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3, 6-10, 13 and 16-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/07</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed February 16, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicants' argue: *"Nowhere does Adams teach or suggest that a "process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion of the integrated circuit and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to configure an operational portion of the integrated circuit to account for the measured process-dependent parameter," as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 11."*

In response to the above argument, the examiner disagrees with the applicants. In col. 4, line 62-col. 5, line 27, in col. 6, line 34-col. 7, line 25 and in col. 9, lines 16-34, discuss comparing the on-chip signal to the set signal from an external source to determine if the signal are the same when the semiconductor device is being tested. Further, the applicants must keep in mind MPEP 2111 states a claim must be interpreted in light of the specification without reading limitations into the claim. With using the word "parameter", it is not specific of the meaning of process dependent integrated circuit and therefore the examiner is giving the limitation the broadest reasonable interpretation. Therefore, the examiner believes that Adams suggests what is being claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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3. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 11-12 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Adams et al (6163862).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Adams et al disclose [see Figs. 1 and 3] a system for monitoring an integrated circuit chip (semiconductor device 10), comprising: means for receiving (test circuit 30 and sense amplifier 18) at least one digitized sense signal (on-chip signal 26) from the integrated circuit chip (10), whereby the at least one digitized sense signal (26) represents a corresponding process-dependent parameter within the integrated circuit chip (10); and means for determining (test circuit 30) an analog value for the at least one process-dependent circuit parameters from the corresponding at least one digitized signal (26); wherein the process-dependent parameter is measured within a process monitor portion (sense amplifier 18) of the integrated circuit (10) and the at least one determined analog value is utilized to configure an operational portion of the integrated circuit (10) to account for the measured process-dependent parameter.

Regarding claims 2 and 12, Adams et al disclose the means for receiving (30) and the means for determining (30) are positioned external of the integrated circuit chip (10).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Adams et al disclose the means for determining (30) comprises means for calculating the at least one value from the at least one digitized signal (26).

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Adams et al disclose the at least one digitized sense signal (26) represents a gate-to-source threshold voltage of a transistor [shown in Fig. 1A] fabricated on the integrated circuit chip (10).

Conclusion

4. Claims 3, 6-10, 13 and 16-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: regarding claims 3 and 13, the reason for allowance of the claims is a system and method for monitoring an IC chip comprises, in combination with other limitations, means for determining comprises means for retrieving the at least one value from a look-up table using the at least one digitized signal.

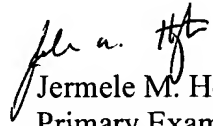
Regarding claims 6-10 and 16-20, the reason for allowance of the claims is a system and method for monitoring an IC chip comprises, in combination with other limitations, the at least one digitized sense signal includes a plurality of digitized sense signals that represent a plurality of the following: a transconductance parameter of a transistor fabricated on the integrated circuit chip; a sheet resistance of a resistor fabricated on the integrated circuit chip; a temperature of the integrated circuit chip; and a power supply voltage on the integrated circuit chip.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jermele M. Hollington whose telephone number is (571) 272-1960. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-4:00 EST) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Jermele M. Hollington
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2829

JMH
March 10, 2007